

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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Security Forces in Berat

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1. The Sigurimi and Police occupy the same building. Sigurimi offices are on the second floor of the building in order to be isolated from the public and are kept locked when unoccupied.

Organization

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2. The Police headquarters of a town deals with the town and nearby villages. Police posts to control distant villages are established at a suitable central location in one of the villages. At a Qark center such as Korce, the Sigurimi and Police headquarters are the headquarters for the whole Qark, but are divided into sections, one for each Rreth and one for the town. There are sub-headquarters at each Rreth subordinate to the main headquarters.
3. The strength of a town police force is usually from 50 to 60 officers and men; that of a village Police Post is about 10 men. By comparison, the Sigurimi force at Berat consisted of 40 officers and men.
4. A local Police Headquarters has the following offices:
 - a. Internal movement (documentation).
 - b. Prisoner escort.
 - c. Criminal office.
 - d. Accounting office, with a civilian accountant.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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Political Jurisdiction

5. The Sigurimi offices keeps complete records with photographs on everyone, particularly political suspects. The Sigurimi conducts all political surveillance through their informers, and takes all action involved in protecting the regime. The police also have some plain-clothes detectives for investigative work.
6. When a crime is discovered the Police make the arrests. The Sigurimi then check the accused's dossier and if he is a political suspect they take over and it becomes a political case.

Uniform

7. Early in 1955 the Sigurimi and Police adopted the Soviet style uniform. The Sigurimi normally wear civilian clothes while the Police are usually uniformed, excepting the detectives mentioned in para. 5 above. The Sigurimi battle dress and the Police dark blue uniform have been abolished. The new uniform is the same color as the army uniform, but Ministry of Interior forces wear a distinguishing blue color mark on their caps; a blue band for officers and a narrow edging for other ranks, their shoulder boards, and a narrow stripe on the trousers. The red star on the arm has been abolished, but is still worn as a cap badge. Some officers and men also wear a hammer and sickle above the star, this is optional and can be considered an indication of the wearers communist feelings.

Weapons

8. The Sigurimi now uses Russian weapons; revolvers or automatics; the automatic being the type with a round magazine holding 75 rounds. The Police carry German revolvers and rifles. The Frontier Guards also carry German weapons, including automatics, and some are equipped with binoculars.

Pay

9. An ordinary policeman's pay is 2,800 lek per month. This is increased by 50 lek for each non-commissioned rank.

Reliability

10. The Sigurimi is considered the most reliable of the Security forces. The Police are also considered reliable, but not complete supporters of the regime in all circumstances. The Border Guards are not considered reliable. The rank and file of the Border Guards are like that of the army; they do their job out of necessity. Recently a group of people who intended to cross the frontier illegally consulted a friend at a frontier post in advance. They were assured that if they were seen by that patrol they would not be fired at. The group later escaped which is a sure indication that their plans were not revealed by the Border Guard.

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